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New Books.

WAR AND LABOR. By Michael Anitchkow. New York: Longmans, Green & Co. 8 vo., 578 pages. Price, \$5.00.

One hardly knows whether to call this book of nearly six hundred pages a treatise on peace or on economics. It is both. Its great thesis is free frontiers as a means of removing and avoiding international friction and developing international coöperation and friendship.

In part first, the author devotes himself to a refutation of the theory that "war will kill war," and the further theory that "legal relations, so firmly rooted in social life, will be transferred to international relations" and that "the institution of international courts will establish peace." He studies with most interesting details the history of war in ancient times, the decline of the military art in the middle ages, and its renewal in modern times. In his study of "international federation and justice" his treatment is much more superficial than where he attempts to show that war will not kill war, and his conclusion in the former case is as far of the mark as it is near in the latter. In dealing with the subject of the growth of international justice, he fails in both historic sense and proportion. This failure evidently grows out of the fact that he is an economist and prejudiced in favor of economic transformation as the only means of bringing about peace. An international tribunal, he thinks, will appear as the consequence, and not the cause, of the suppression of war. The Hague statesmen held a different and much more logical opinion, and we are much nearer to an international tribunal to-day than we are to free frontiers. Our author has little but ridicule to bestow upon the "vainglorious declarations" of the peace societies and congresses, the superterrestrial "fantasies" of the international jurists, and the "grave antics" and "hypocrisy" of the parliaments voting resolutions in favor of arbitration. One regrets in reading this portion of the work that he did not give to this subject the same comprehensive and critical investigation as to the economic phases of it.

In part second of the work, Mr. Anitchkow discusses the causes of wars formerly and now. Most of the old causes—religious and dynastic questions,—no longer operate. The causes to be feared to-day are "territorial disagreements and entanglements springing from trade

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rivalry." "Disputed territories and threatened trade represent a dangerous element in international affairs." "Custom-house limitations play their vexing part everywhere." These propositions he works out with much wealth of detail, with many illustrations from actual systems of taxes, custom-house practices, tariff changes, etc. In this part of the work there is an extended discussion of tariffs, free trade, protection, labor, increase of population, free transmigration and wages, in their relation to international peace. The author is thoroughly at home here, and handles "the disastrous battle of taxes" and the "freedom of transmigration" with real insight and breadth of vision. "The real, simple, natural Christian solution of the question of transmigration lies in the total freedom of the same." He finds fiscal tariffs little more commendable than protective tariffs, and believes that the short road to international friendship and peace is the entire sweeping away of custom-houses. He fails to appreciate the fact, however, that custom-houses are quite as much the effect of international jealousy and hatred as their cause, and that the same influences which are working toward free frontiers are those which the friends of peace are using for the inauguration of a system of international justice.

In part third, Mr. Anitchkow makes a plea for government help to national labor, not so much in the way of "premiums" or direct subsidies, as in the bettering of the conditions, the improvement of means of intercommunication,—roads and railways,—the steadyng of the value of monetary tokens, the blending of municipal management with private initiative, the promotion of natural education, the complete internal union of labor in which both government and people share. "Let schools be built on the ruins of custom-houses."

His conclusions are that "free international coöperation joined with free social coöperation will abolish war, will gradually reduce the armies and fleets to very small numbers." "National independence and state sovereignty will be inviolable when all frontiers are free." "The inclination to capture disputed territories would decrease." "The Eastern question—that constant threat of European peace—will be solved as soon as free frontiers are instituted, for they will release the powers from the long-existing nightmare of war."

Mr. Anitchkow argues all his propositions at great length. The book is packed full of interesting historical material. In fact, he sometimes goes too far afield in gathering historical facts, some of which do not seem very germane to his general subject. The work would have been improved if it had been reduced to four hundred pages.

Some of the chapters are badly marred by the misspelling of proper names, particularly those treating of international justice, where Grotius, Bluntschli, Kamrowsky, Laveleye, Hindley, etc., are scarcely ever spelled rightly. Some of the English is unpleasantly foreign, and would have been much improved if the manuscript had been read by some one born to the use of English.

In spite of its defects of treatment and of mechanical execution, "War and Labor" is a most valuable addition to the literature of international peace, rich in suggestiveness, and deserves a wide reading.